



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Jordan Brayman, Antonio D. Burley, Bobbi Jo Cini, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne Kotowski, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strobe, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Conley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

28 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burley, Rep. Cini, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Espada, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strobe, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson

Members Absent: Rep. Brayman, Rep. Baril, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Longino, Rep. Luck, Rep. Marley, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Svencer, Rep. Turnbull and Rep. Watrous

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Assistant Public Works Director Christian Lund, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Meyer. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 25 in favor, 3 abstentions. Abstaining: Reps. Bauer, Cini and Kotowski.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Conley welcomed the newest members of the RTM, Bobbi Jo Cini representing the 7th District and Lian Obrey representing the 2nd District. Rep. Cini is filling the vacancy left by Karen Hatcher's resignation and Rep. Obrey is filling the vacancy left by Patrice Granatosky's resignation.

She reported that Rep. Patrice Granatosky submitted her resignation to the Town Clerk after representing the 4th and 2nd District of the Town of Groton for the last 20 years. She is now serving as a Town Councilor. She reported that Rep. DeMatto will replace Ms. Granatosky as Chairman of the RTM Finance Committee and Rep. Smith will be the Majority Floor Leader.

She mentioned that the funeral for Bill Jervis, former City of Groton Deputy Mayor and City

Councilor will take place tomorrow, and she offered the condolences of the RTM.

Reps. Brayman, Marley, Obrey, Svencer and Turnbull notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2015 (unaudited, not updated until after audit is completed) is approximately \$8.94 million: the General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 and no transfers are pending approval. The Capital Reserve balance as of July 31, 2015 is estimated at \$976,277 (unaudited).

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager News including the appointment of Paige Bronk to the position of Economic and Community Development Manager and the appointment of Louis J. Fusaro Jr. to the position of Chief of Police. He also mentioned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded to the Town of Groton Finance Department and the grants to be recieved by the Library and Senior Center.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

Rep. McDermott reported that he led school children on a challenging hike through Pequot Woods last week and acknowledged the Parks Department for putting it all together.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moderator Conley read the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on August 12, 2015. Minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Ambrose and so voted unanimously.

2015-0137

Adoption of Ordinance for Refurbishment of Water Pollution Control Facility Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$8,230,000 FOR REFURBISHMENT OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY (WPCF) EFFLUENT PUMP STATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE FISHTOWN ROAD PUMP STATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,230,000) is appropriated for costs related to design and construction of improvements to the refurbishment of the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Effluent Pump Station and rehabilitation of the Fishtown Road Pump Station, and costs related to the financing thereof, substantially as described in the Fishtown Road Pump Station Condition Evaluation and Preliminary Design Report, dated August 2011, the Fishtown Road Pump Station Rehabilitation - Preliminary Drawings Presented to the WPCA 11/12/14, the Effluent Pump Station Needs Evaluation Summary Report, dated March 14, 2014 and revised June 5, 2014, and the Effluent Pump Station Needs Evaluation - Presentation to the WPCA 11/12/14, each available for inspection at the Public Works Department Offices in the Town Hall Annex Building, 134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, Connecticut. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, construction management, site improvements, engineering fees, design and bidding services, testing and inspection costs, related

site and utilities work, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council shall determine the scope and particulars of the project and may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so modified or reduced.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes or obligations, in an amount not to exceed EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,230,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes or obligations authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-259 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes or obligations and all notes and interim funding obligations issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes or obligations that in each year while any such bonds or notes or obligations are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town, other than properties within the City of Groton, in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes or obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations for the project. The amount of the notes or obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,230,000). The notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-264 and 7-378 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Sections 7-378a and 7-378b of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Sections 7-264 or 7-378, and the Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 22a-479(c) with respect to any obligations.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds, notes or obligations authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes or interim funding obligations authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes or obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes or obligations. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes or obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations; to sell the bonds or notes or obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants

as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes or obligations authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes or obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes or obligations.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept state grants to finance the project and state loans to finance the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State. The Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Water Pollution Control Authority are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements.

Section 8. That the Water Pollution Control Authority is authorized to construct the sewer project; to approve design and construction expenditures and any easement acquisition costs incurred for the sewer project; and to contract with engineers, contractors and others on behalf of the Town for said sewer project. All such authority is subject to the provisions of Section 1.

Section 9. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, the Water Pollution Control Authority and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes or obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 10. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes and obligations to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

A motion was made by Moderator Conley, seconded by Rep. DeMatto that this matter be adopted.

Responding to numerous questions, Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works and Christian Lund Assistant Director explained the anticipated costs for these projects and why it would be more cost effective to complete these projects now rather than later.

The 35 year old mechanical and electrical pump systems are now ten years beyond their generally accepted 25 year service life. The proposed upgrade consists of the replacement of pumps, piping, valves and variable frequency motor controls to improve reliability and energy efficiency. The project also includes significant life safety and building code compliance modifications. Additionally, a violation of the Towns wastewater permit could result in fines levied against the Town of \$25,000 per day for each day an unauthorized discharge occurs.

The motion carried 24 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Burley, Cini and Kotowski.)

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting; no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting; no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting; no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

Chairman Ambroise read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting on July 23, 2015. Minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chairman Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 24 in favor, 4 abstentions. Abstaining: Reps. Cini, DeMatto, Monaghan and Powers.

Rep. Monaghan read the minority report that he filed after the RTM Rules & Procedures Committee meeting on July 23, 2015. Report is on file with minutes in the Town Clerk's office.

A recess was called at 8:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

2015-0174 Resolution for a Town Wide Budget Referendum

RESOLUTION FOR A TOWN WIDE BUDGET REFERENDUM

A motion was made by Rep. Ambroise to propose that the Town Council convene a Charter Revision Commission under the Power of Initiative, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.

Rep. Swindell stated that Charter Revision was historically done by the Town Council.

Moderator Conley confirmed that there was an open Town Council referral to appoint a Charter Revision Commission.

A caucus was called at 8:43 p.m. by both the Democratic and Republican Party. The meeting reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

Rep. Meyer made a motion to table the Resolution to convene a Charter Revision Commission, seconded by Rep. Smith.

The vote to table the resolution to convene a Charter Revision Commission carried 21 in favor, 6 oppose, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Espada, Kotowski, McDermott, Monaghan and Morton, Abstaining: Rep. Wilson.

Rep. Ambroise requested a referral to discuss Charter Revision Commission.

Moderator Conley assigned the referral to discuss proposing a Charter Revision Commission to Rules & Procedures Committee and stated that all members of the RTM and Town Council will be invited to any scheduled meeting for this referral.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

None.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Ambroise mentioned that the School Facilities Task Force has a meeting on August 20, 2015

at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

Rep. Kotowski asked if vacation payments of over \$10,000 made to non-union employees were in violation of the Town Charter Sec. 9.10.5. Mr. Oefinger stated that collectively payments were over \$10,000 but not individual payments. He added that non-union employee vacation payments come from the individuals department budget. He continued to say that employees must use 15 vacation days a year. If an employee earns the maximum of 26 days a year, the maximum vacation payment would be 11 days. He added that the funds would have to be available in the individuals department budget in order to be paid.

Rep. Swindell would like a report on Economic Development at every session of the RTM. He requested a referral to committee.

Moderator Conley assigned a referral the Rules & Procedures Committee to possibly add an agenda item for a report on Economic Development.

In response to Rep. McDermott, Mr. Oefinger noted that the town has always been very supportive of the airport. He believes that the town is involved in the tour of the airport scheduled for next week, but did not have any specific details.

On behalf of the RTM, Moderator Conley extends its deepest heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Al Smith. Mr. Smith was a long time dedicated Town employee who recently passed away due to injuries sustained in a tragic accident.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Rep. Monaghan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously at 9:43 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk of the RTM

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II